



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

Determination of Insignificance Under the Interbasin Transfer Act MGL Chapter 21 Sections 8B-8D

On August 12, 1991, the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission voted to find a request from the Town of Wellesley to transfer water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) insignificant under the Interbasin Transfer Act, MGL Chapter 21 Sections 8B-8D. This transfer will occur as part of a water exchange program between the MWRA and the Town of Wellesley.

The water exchange concept is designed to allow Wellesley, in effect, to store water with the MWRA, thereby reducing its withdrawal from Charles River basin sources during the critical, low-flow periods. This will serve to improve the flow in the river at these times and insure that the Town will have adequate water supplies during critical low flow months.

1. The Town of Wellesley proposes to transfer an annual maximum of 110 million gallons of water, within five percent, to the MWRA between October 1st and May 31st. No water will be transferred to the MWRA at other times. The average daily volume transferred will be 0.45 mgd. The maximum interbasin transfer from Wellesley to the MWRA in any 24 hour period will be 1.5 mgd. The MWRA will provide water to Wellesley, as needed, from June 1st through September 30th.
2. The transfer will only occur during periods of high flow in the Charles River, honoring the minimum streamflow established by the Water Resources Commission, including a special fall minimum flow of 0.53 cfs for the months of October and November.
3. Once the water sharing project has been activated, Wellesley will submit a monthly report for the period of transfer to the MWRA, to the WRC, listing the daily transfer volumes and the river stage/discharge measurements.

The Commission based its decision on the following rationale:

1. Under this water sharing agreement, there will be no net loss to the basin. This factor, combined with the fact that this is a "water banking" arrangement, was critical to the decision. If there had been a net loss to the basin, any transfer that resulted in a transfer of more than 1 mgd on a given day would not have met the criteria for determination of insignificance.
2. The transfer from Wellesley to the MWRA will occur during periods of high flow in the Charles River, honoring the minimum streamflow established by the Water Resources Commission, including a special fall minimum flow of 0.53 cfs as measured at the USGS Dover Gage for the months of October and November.
3. The Town of Wellesley has implemented a Water Conservation Plan approved by the Water Resources Commission.